

## Message Text

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FOL RPT TEL AVIV 10953 SENT ACTION USINFO SECSTATE NSC  
CIA USICA WHITEHOUSE DIA TEL AVIV MEDIA REACTION COLLECTIVE  
AUG 25, 1978

QUOTE: UNCLAS USICA/TELAVIV 10953

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, AUGUST 25, 1978  
(SECOND OF TWO CABLES: EDITORIALS ON LEDTFON.)

1. SUMMARY: YEDIOT'S DIPLOMATIC COMMENTATOR EROL  
GUINEY ARGUES THAT SYRIA CAN YET FIND ITSELF THE LOSER  
IN LEBANON. ISRAEL CAN INTERVENE THERE, SAYS GUINEY,  
WITHOUT UNDERMINING THE CAMP DAVID TALKS, "IF IT  
CAREFULLY CALCULATES ITS MOVES." BESIDES, ISRAEL CAN  
MAKE THE CHRISTIANS SO STRONG, THAT CRUSHING THEM WILL  
BE TOO COSTLY A JOB FOR SYRIA TO UNDERTAKE. JERUSALEM  
POST'S EDITORIAL FEARS "A NEW AND POSSIBLY CRITICAL  
STAGE IN ISRAEL'S INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON," FOLLOWING  
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LAST WEEK'S "SECRET" MEETING AT PM BEGIN'S RESIDENCE,  
PAPER CALLS FOR "A SOBER POLICY FOR LEBANON", ADVISES  
AGAINST "RUSHING HEADLONG INTO WHAT PROMISES TO BE A  
REMORSELESS QUAGMIRE..." END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE FACE OF IT, ISRAEL IS CONFRONTED WITH AN  
IMPOSSIBLE DILEMMA IN LEBANON, SAYS YEDIOT'S DIPLOMATIC

COMMENTATOR EROL GUINEY. "IF IT INTERVENES MASSIVELY, ISRAEL WOULD BE PLAYING STRAIGHT INTO SYRIA'S HANDS, BECUASE THIS INTERVENTION COULD REDUCE CAMP DAVID'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS" ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD ISRAEL LIMIT ITSELF TO ONLY A TOKEN REACTION, "SYRIA WILL SMASH THE CHRISTIANS AND PROVE IN THE PROCESS THAT ISRAEL IS A PAPER TIGER WHOSE COMMITMENTS CAN'T BE RELIED UPON..."  
FORTUNATELY, ACCORDING TO GUINEY, THINGS ARE NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT. FIRST, "THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS CAN, WITH ISRAEL'S EXPANDED HELP, PUT UP A RESISTANCE WHICH WILL MAKE CRUSHING THEM TOO EXPENSIVE EVEN FOR ASSAD..."  
SECONDLY, ISRAEL MAY GET AWAY WITH A MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, "IF IT IS CAREFULLY CALCULATED AND WELL EXECUTED..." GUINEY ARGUES THAT "THE LEAKS" ABOUT LAST WEEK'S SECRET, MIDNIGHT MEETING AT PM BEGIN'S HOME, ALLEGEDLY ATTENDED BY A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR, "ARE NOTHING BUT PART OF A CAMPAIGN OF DISSUASION.. HAD THEY WANTED TO KEEP IT SECRET, THEY COULD EASILY HAVE DONE THAT. THE OBVIOUS OBJECTIVE WAS, "SAYS GINEY, "TO SHOW THE OTHER SIDE THAT ISRAEL WAS PREPARING ITSELF AGAINST ALL CONTINGENCIES..."

3. LIKE EDITORIALS IN MOST PAPERS OF THE LAST WEEK, POST CALLS FOR A "SOBER POLICY FOR LEBANON. NOTING THE "NEW, AND POSSIBLY CRITICAL STAGE IN ISRAEL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF LEBANON" FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S REPORTS ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MEETING BETWEEN ISRAEL'S TOP LEADERS AND LEBANON'S CAMILLE CHAMOUN, POST STATES THAT WHILE "THERE MUST BE VERY FEW ISRAELIS WHO WILL COUNSEL THEIR GOVERNMENT TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACROSS THE BORDER IS ACTUALLY THREATENED WITH GENOCIDE, NO VISIBLE INTEREST WILL BE SERVED BY A HEADLONG RUSH INTO WHAT PROMISES TO BE A REMORSELESS QUAGMIRE, IN DEFENSE OF A PEOPLE WHO IN A LARGE SENSE ARE THE AUTHORS OF THEIR OWN PREDICAMENT..." HITC COCK  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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